the time is not far distant when the man of talent will be paid equal to his abilities. With these remarks, I am, Sir, &c.,

March 5th, 1846. W. E. S.

BUILDERS' ESTIMATES.

SIR,—As I think publicity may do good, may I beg your inserting the following list of tenders, delivered to Messrs. Croll and Glover, of Suffolk-street, Clerkenwell-green, for building a brick tank to receive a gas holder of 46 feet 6 inches in diameter, at Edmonton.

John Hill	£700
Thos. Cooper	648
Henry Johnson	583
Medwin, of Tottenham	325 !

Is not this ridiculous?—I am, Sir, &c.,

A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.

Miscellanea.

FALL OF WAREHOUSE AT LIVERPOOL.—In our impression of the 14th ultimo we announced this accident, and stated that fortunately no lives were lost. Since then a death originating in the fall has occurred, and an inquest has been held, which necessarily involved the cause of the accident. Several professional men were examined, who attributed it to the rottenness of the ends of the beams in the eastern and western walls, and which could not be discovered while the building stood. Mr. James Allenson Picton agreed generally with the evidence given, but laid more stress on the defective foundations on which the props rested. In two places the walls on which they had stood had cracked and given way. The props rested on mere rolling rubbish. The coroner, in addressing the jury, pointed out that there was ample evidence to shew that the tenants had not exceeded the usual stowage, but that the accident arose from hidden causes. The jury appended to their verdict of "Accidental death from unforseen causes," a request that the coroner would convey to the town council their suggestion that a surveyor should be appointed to inspect warehouses, and especially the old ones.

MALLEABLE GLASS.—A correspondent remarks, "some time since your publication contained an account of the invention of a malleable glass, by some gentleman in France. In Wanley's wonders of the little world you will find, as I did when a little boy, that a man submitted to the burgomasters of Amsterdam a glass bottle, which he bent, by violently throwing it upon the pavement, and then hammered it into its former state; but he was found dead in the high road on the ensuing morning. Mr. Samuel Ethgrege Acton, the father of the late Mr. Samuel Acton, of Euston-square, discovered the method of making a malleable glass, but, with a commendable though mistaken kind feeling, he steadily refused to disclose the secret, lest it should deprive the glass manufacturers of subsistence."

SOCIETY OF ARTS' PREMIUMS.—A correspondent says:—"On perusing the list of prizes in THE BUILDER, I find, in the section of the fine arts, prizes of *ten guineas* and the society's medal for what appear to me trivial objects in comparison to a cheap effective system of ventilation, for which *five* guineas and the medal are offered: take, for instance, the model of an earthenware jug, or a small tea-urn. I cannot help thinking that the preference is given to objects of little importance when compared with that of benefitting the health of society. What the society's motives are I know not, nor have I any business to inquire. I have prepared a long communication on the subject of ventilation, with models, which has in time and expense cost me more than the value of the prize offered, besides the expenses of a journey to London, in case of success."

THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS are about to memorialize the Queen, praying her Majesty to grant them a charter of incorporation. The memorial states that the society are about to found "a school of art for providing instruction of the first order, and on the most liberal scale.

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.—The Hotel de Ville is to be restored forthwith, under the supervision of the Royal Society of Fine Arts at Dusseldorf. Fresco paintings will be employed for internal decoration.

LONDON AND PARIS.—A foreign correspondent of the *Athenæum* says:—"Improvements, restorations, and new buildings go on here with astonishing rapidity and vastness. New streets, new buildings in all directions—a new church (in the Byzantine style, it is said) in the Place de Belle Chasse,—the rich and elaborate restoration of the Sainte Chapelle, already far advanced—the projected restoration of Notre Dame—the new hotel for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to be built near the Chamber of Deputies—these, and a hundred minor schemes and works, attest the prosperity of France, and the peaceful activity of the times. Though I see no signs of the architectural genius which has so often struck me in Germany, there is a general air of grandeur and magnificence in the new streets and buildings, which well accords with the character of Paris. On the other hand, there is an entire want of the sober quiet finish of London. Paris is a splendid slattern, and London a neat dowdy. Take your choice. People with whom the organ of sight is not the only avenue to pleasure and pain, may find the balance somewhat heavy against the former. The incredible and stunning noise of the streets, arising from the most clattering of carriages on the most horrible of pavements,—the disorderly driving and walking which exposes one, at every minute, to change one's course, to be jostled and pushed into the kennel,—the overwhelming stinks (among which I must include the nauseating perfumes worn by the women, and even by some men),—the disgusting habits of the population as to various forms of cleanliness and decency; the innumerable inconveniences of the houses, want of water, superabundance of half-closing doors and windows, the mortal fatigue of climbing two, three, and four stories high to visit your acquaintances (the 3me Etage is not a whit less 'genteel,' as Mrs. Simpkins would say, 'than any other')—these things form the alloy of the glittering gold. On the other hand, I can well imagine the *triste* monotony of London to a Parisian who does not mind the noise, does not smell the stinks, does not feel the drafts, does not use the water, is bored by order and method, and likes splendour, variety, and vivacity.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—March 11. Mr. Thomas Winkworth in the chair. The first communication was by Mr. Waterhouse, of Chesterfield, on his machine for the manufacture of Mechlin lace. It appears from the description of the machine, and the specimens of the lace exhibited, to be one of great capabilities. The next communication was by Dr. Paltrinerie, on a new steam engine, magnetic engine, and other machines in which the moving power is applied simultaneously, by action and reaction, to the work to be performed; being illustrations of a system for obtaining all motive powers and maximum of effect. Dr. Paltrinerie conceives, that the maximum of effect is to be obtained by applying simultaneously the action and reaction of every motive power with equal velocities, to the production of the useful effect. He shewed a very beautiful double turbine, in which the water, steam, or other moving fluid is applied by means of two concentric wheels, through which the fluid passes successively, and by this means he shewed that a residual effect, which is lost in the ordinary single wheel, would be converted to use by the double. He shewed the same results in the case of his new magnetic engine; and he illustrated the fact by a machine of great accuracy, in which the constant force of a spring is applied to raise a weight; first, by having one hand released and the other fixed, and next, by releasing both hands simultaneously; and in which latter case he shewed that the maximum of effect is utilised.

THE PEERS AND MR. BARRY.—The differences between Mr. Barry and Dr. Reid at the Houses of Parliament have had the effect of delaying the works in the House of Lords for some time past, and very probably will do so for some time to come. Lord Brougham directed the attention of the peers to the state of things on Tuesday, and took occasion to abuse the building.

OPERATIVES IN MANCHESTER.—4,000 men connected with the building trades have struck, partly for advance of wages and partly for an abridgment of the hours of labour. The masters have formed themselves into an association to resist the demands.

MORE SCULPTURE FROM ASIA MINOR.—According to *The Times* we are about to receive from the ancient city of Halicarnassus, now called Boodroum, some ancient marbles, supposed to be a part of the tomb of Mausolus, erected by Artemisia to the memory of her husband, and which was, in the days of the kings of Caria, considered as one of the seven wonders of the world. "The monument in question was a mass of unusual splendour, and from this magnificent sepulchre, tombs and the like edifices received their name; it was built by four different architects—Scopas erected the east side, Timotheus the south, Leochares the west, Brucis the north. Pithis was also employed in raising a pyramid over this stately superstructure, and the top was adorned by a chariot with four horses; the expense was immense, and called forth the remark made by the philosopher Anaxagoras, when he saw it, "How much money changed into stones." The marbles were found inside the fortress, and built into the ramparts and bastions, at various heights from the ground, varying from 40 feet to 12 feet; they are of considerable size, being from 7 feet by 5 feet, of great weight, varying from 25 to 46 cwt., and 14 in number." They are said to be little inferior to those of the Parthenon.

THE GLASS TRADE.—In so prosperous a condition is this branch of manufactures at the present time, and so likely is it to continue, that the Birmingham Plate and Crown Glass Company have determined upon increasing their capital to a considerable amount for the purpose of meeting the unprecedented demand occasioned by the recent reduction in the duties. It is a curious fact that within the past twelve months, owing to the then depressed state of the trade, this same company had partly suspended their operations, and were actually negotiating for the entire disposal of their establishment. No better proof than this can be adduced of the injurious influence of high duties upon the industry, energy, and wealth of the nation.

GLASS AND AUCTION DUTIES.—Sir Robert Peel stated, on Monday, he was happy to be able to inform the House that in consequence of the alteration of the glass and auction duties, a reduction of 52,000*l.* had been made in the salaries of the officers employed in collecting them.

THE AMERICAN EXCAVATOR.—A steam excavating machine, upon which the railway labourers have bestowed the name of the "American Devil," is now being employed at Hull, in excavating the Victoria Dock. It was invented about eight years ago by a gentleman of New York, and has been extensively used in the formation of American railways. It consists of a portable steam-engine of about 16-horse power, and it is furnished with a crane, to which is attached a large square bucket of wood, armed with six tusks. These tusks pierce the earth, which at once fills the buckets, two buckets filling an earth-waggon. The machine requires two engineers and three men, and does the work of thirty men; filling above 200 waggons per day, each waggon containing seven tons of earth.—*Newcastle Advertiser.*

BRICKS.—The late member for Westminster, Captain Rous, moved, soon after the opening of the present session, for a return of the duties paid upon bricks, in the several excise collections in England, from 1839 to 1845, both years inclusive. In London the duty paid for the respective years mentioned was, 23,911*l.* 11s. 6½d. (1839), 26,732*l.* 19s. 7d. (1840), 25,876*l.* 1s. 8½d. (1841), 26,358*l.* 17s. 5½d. (1842), 19,827*l.* 2s. 9½d. (1843), 25,759*l.* 16s. 8d. (1844), and 31,267*l.* 12s. 10d. (1845). The total duty in those years, in London and the country, was, 459,665*l.* 5s. 11d., 509,794*l.* 7s. 3d., 436,841*l.* 9s. 4d., 390,185*l.* 9s. 3½d., 355,464*l.* 17s. 4½d., 435,730*l.* 8s. 5½d., and 558,415*l.* 13s. 11½d. A further return has been since moved for.

THE CHURCH FOR THE SEAMEN OF LONDON.—Messrs. Cubitt commenced the building of this edifice on Monday. It is estimated to contain 800 free sittings, and to cost, including the site and endowment, 9,000*l.* The architect is Mr. Henry Roberts.

ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE AT DORCHESTER.—Our readers will be pleased to hear that, through the interference of the British Archæological Association, this interesting antiquity has been saved from threatened destruction.

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